

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN PGOV SHUM CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 24-27

REF: SANTIAGO 2131

1. MARIANA CALLEJAS, WIFE OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY, REEMERGED
OVER THE WEEKEND TO LASH OUT AT THOSE NFQFSM# FROM TELLING THE TRUTH".

SHE STATED THAT ONCE TOWNLEY'S INNOCENCE IS ESTABLISHED,
THE INVESTIGATION COULD TURN IN ANOTHER DIRECTION --
PRESUMABLY TO INCLUDE THE MIR. CALLEJAS HAD TOLD "CRONISTA"
THE DAY BEFORE THAT TOWNLEY WAS IN CHILE IN AUGUST 1976
AND THAT SHE HAS MEANS TO PROVE IT. IN STILL ANOTHER
STORY, IN "LA TERCERA" MARCH 24, CALLEJAS SAID THAT SHE
AND HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN SEPARATED FOR SOME TIME, THAT
SHE COULD NOT RECALL A TOWNLEY TRIP TO THE U.S. IN
AUGUST 1976, AND THAT HE HAD NOT TOLD HER ANYTHING.

2. CONSERVATIVE EDITORIAL OPINION MARCH 27 HIGHLIGHTED
GOC COOPERATION TO DATE AND REJECTED THE NOTION THAT
CHILEANS -- GOVERNMENT OR OTHER -- MAY BE INVOLVED.
"CRONISTA" ASSERTED THAT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY MARCH 23
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STATEMENT (REFTEL) ABSOLVED CHILEANS OF ANY INVOLVEMENT
AND "ENDED A WAVE OF INTERESTED RUMORS, IN AND OUTSIDE
THE COUNTRY, THAT ATTEMPTED TO CONFUSE PUBLIC OPINION AND
CAST UNJUST SUSPICIONS AGAINST OUR GOVERNMENT, DAMAGING
ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE". RIGHT- WING NEWS COLUMNIST
PABLO RODRIGUEZ PRINTED INSTALLMENT TWO OF HIS CONSPIRACY
THEME. HE REPEATED HIS CHARGE THAT THE LETELIER INVESTIGA-

TION FORMS PART OF AN ANTI-CHILE CAMPAIGN, CARRIED OUT EVER SINCE JIMMY CARTER ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY. THE OBJECTIVE, ACCORDING TO RODRIGUEZ, IS TO OVERTHROW THE MILITARY REGIME WITHOUT DIRECT INTERVENTION.

3. THE PRESS QUOTES SANTIAGO MILITARY JUDGE GENERAL ENRIQUE MOREL AS SAYING THAT FLAG RANK OFFICER HAS BEEN APPOINTED AD HOC PROSECUTOR (FISCAL) TO CARRY OUT THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE POSSIBLE ISSUANCE AND USE OF OFFICIAL CHILEAN PASSPORTS BY PERSONS IN THE ARMED FORCES. GENERAL MOREL STATED THAT THERE ARE NOT TIME LIMITS, THAT THE PROSECUTOR WOULD EXHAUST ALL LEADS AND THAT THE FINDINGS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC ONCE THE INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETED.
LANDAU

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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